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# Letter dated 15 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to forward to you the letter of Sergey Lavrov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation, and would be grateful if you would circulate the present letter as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

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## Annex to the letter dated 15 October 2015 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Russian]

Sir,

I have the honor to inform you that, in response to a request from the President of the Syrian Arab Republic, Bashar al-Asad, to provide military assistance in combating the terrorist group Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and other terrorist groups operating in Syria, the Russian Federation began launching air and missile strikes against the assets of terrorist formations in the territory of the Syrian Arab Republic on 30 September 2015.

This decision was taken in the light of the extremely dangerous crisis that has unfolded in Syria, which has the potential for further expansion as a result of the activities of international terrorists and extremists.

The threat posed by ISIL and other terrorist groups clearly extends far beyond the region of the Middle East and North Africa. Their elimination requires truly collective approaches, based on the norms and principles of international law and the provisions of the United Nations Charter, bringing together each and every force committed to defeating terrorism and ensuring their flexible and efficient coordination. The Russian Federation has therefore submitted specific proposals to the Security Council aimed at establishing a united front to combat terrorism.

Bearing in mind our common goal to eliminate the terrorist threat in Syria, I also consider it highly important not to relax our efforts to advance a genuine inter-Syrian dialogue based on the Geneva Communiqué of 30 June 2012, and to create the conditions to begin negotiations between the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic and the patriotic opposition. In this context, I reaffirm the Russian Federation's support for the work of Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura to launch the process of a political settlement and its intention to further assist him in successfully carrying out the substantial tasks assigned to him in the context of the Syrian crisis.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(*Signed*) S. **Lavrov**